

CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for providing a computerized transaction interface system to a plurality of exchanges, said plurality of exchanges comprising at least one automated exchange and at least one non-automated exchange, said method comprising:

receiving, at a client workstation, a client order comprising one or more contracts;

automatically selecting, by a facilitation server, one of the plurality of exchanges for execution of the client order based on the one or more contracts in the order and based on electronically stored routing rules;

automatically delivering, by the facilitation server, the order to the selected exchange for execution;

if, based on electronically stored routing rules, the selected exchange is the at least one automated exchange, further automatically processing, by the facilitation server, said order to protect a position; and

if, based on electronically stored routing rules, the selected exchange is the at least one non-automated exchange, automatically monitoring, by the facilitation server, said transaction in order to take a further position in the order's contracts, if necessary.

2. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein selecting one of the plurality of exchanges is also based on a national best bid/offer price for the contracts.

3. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein selecting one of the plurality of exchanges comprises selecting the at least one automated exchange if the order can be executed on the at least one automated exchange.

4. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 3 further including the step of:

placing a facilitation order on the at least one automated exchange if an order is placed for more than a predetermined number of contracts.

5. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 4 further including the step of:

placing a contra order against the order on the at least one automated exchange.

6. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of creating an instrument evidencing the transaction.

7. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of:

providing a monitoring system to monitor the status of the order.

8. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 7 further including the step of:

updating the monitoring system as each step occurs.

9. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of:

automatically hedging the order.

10. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of:

recording the execution of each step of the transaction.

11. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of:

recording the execution of each step of the transaction in a database.